Transfer of Centre for Plasma Physics, Guwahati

2070. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expert Committee under the Department of Science and Technology has recommended transfer of Centre for Plasma Physics, Guwahati, Assam from the State Government to Central Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the final Cabinet paper has been placed for consideration of the Cabinet in connection with transfer of Centre for Plasma Physics to Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to transfer of CPPG from State Government of Assam to Central Government by the end of March, 2006; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) Department of Science and Technology had submitted a proposal for taking over of the Centre for Plasma Physics (CPP), Guwahati for consideration of the Government of India. The Planning Commission commented that a similar Institute, Institute of Plasma Research (IPR), is working in the same field and is already under the Government of India (Department of Atomic Energy). It would be desirable that the activities of the Centre for Plasma Physics, Guwahati are integrated with the Institute of Plasma Research (IPR), under the Department of Atomic Energy. The matter is being referred to the Department of Atomic Energy.

Research Centre on Glaciology

2071. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of rapid receding of Himalayan glaciers, the Prime Minister directed to set up Research Centre on Glaciology immediately;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed Centre is going to coordinate with China and Nepal which are more susceptible to ill effect of the receding Himalayan glaciers;

(d) whether any report by WWF has been submitted on Himalayan glaciers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee of scientists and experts under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has been formed to device the format, structure and role of a National Research Centre on Glaciology. A meeting of this Committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary was held on 15.9.2006.

(c) Transnational issues would need bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not rise.

Research innovations in the country

2072. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of new innovations and research technology invented by our scientists could not reach at the grass root level, particularly rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for adopting people friendly approach for developing rural areas by carrying such research innovations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has been proactively engaged in developing,